

House Resolution 114 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY LENSING

1 A Resolution urging the State Voter Registration

2 Commission to provide online voter registration to
3 all qualified applicants.

4 WHEREAS, the State Voter Registration Commission
5 is charged with promoting interagency cooperation and
6 planning; and

7 WHEREAS, the State Registrar of Voters (Secretary of
8 State) is required to provide the maximum public access
9 to the electoral process permitted by law; and

10 WHEREAS, Iowa law provides that a voter registration
11 form may be on paper or electronic media and may be
12 completed by an applicant who provides an Iowa driver's
13 license number, an Iowa nonoperator's identification
14 card number, the last four numerals of the applicant's
15 social security number, or an assigned unique
16 identifying number; and

17 WHEREAS, the State Voter Registration Commission has
18 adopted emergency rules, effective January 5, 2016,
19 that require stand-alone electronic voter registration
20 applicants to provide the last five digits of the
21 applicant's social security number, the applicant's
22 state-issued identification card number, and an
23 additional discriminator number; and

24 WHEREAS, the above-mentioned rules, promulgated
25 pursuant to Iowa Code section 48A.18, establish
26 administrative burdens on applicants beyond the scope
27 of the requirements contained in Iowa Code section
28 48A.11, subsection 1, paragraph "e"; and

1 WHEREAS, Iowa law requires that electronic
2 signatures for registration forms be accepted; and

3 WHEREAS, the State Voter Registration Commission
4 has adopted rules to only accept limited forms of
5 electronic signatures; and

6 WHEREAS, advocates for the disabled, minorities,
7 and others have given voice to concerns that the above
8 rules and the Internet site created and maintained by
9 the Office of Driver Services of the Department of
10 Transportation to implement those rules violate the
11 rights of Iowans; and

12 WHEREAS, advocates for the disabled have expressed
13 concern that the Internet site violates the state's
14 obligations under the federal Americans with
15 Disabilities Act of 1990; NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
17 That the House of Representatives strongly urges the
18 State Voter Registration Commission to amend its rules
19 to conform with the spirit of Iowa law, to promote
20 interagency cooperation, and to provide the maximum
21 public access to the electoral process permitted by law
22 by:

23 I. Providing an applicant with additional means to
24 sign an electronic voter registration form; and

25 II. Accepting electronic applications of registrants
26 who provide only the last four numerals of the
27 registrant's Social Security number; and

28 III. Requiring that the Internet site for online
29 voter registration be maintained in full compliance
30 with federal law.

1 IV. Respecting the rights of all Iowans to register
2 to vote on an equal basis, whether registering in
3 person, by mail, or through electronic means.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the
5 House of Representatives is directed to transmit copies
6 of this resolution to the State Voter Registration
7 Commission and the State Registrar of Voters.